

Amendments to the Drawings:

Please add the attached drawings sheet containing new Figs. 5 and 6.

REMARKS

Claims 13-28 will be pending in the application after the Examiner enters the forgoing amendment..

In part 1 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the abstract of the disclosure. By the foregoing amendment, applicant submits a new abstract of the disclosure.

In part 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the drawings, stating “the drawings must show every feature specified in the claims.” Applicant has added a drawings sheet containing block diagrams, to visually display some features clearly disclosed by the originally filed text. No new matter has been added. Applicant respectfully submits that the new set of claims, render moot any remaining objections to the drawings.

In part 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to this specification, citing informalities. Applicant has amended the specification to address the examiner's concerns.

In parts 5-14, the Examiner objected to claims 8 and 11; rejected claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph; rejected claims 1-4 and 7-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication 2003/0053875 to Pasquetto; rejected claims 1-4, 8 to 9 and 11-12 under § 102 as anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0006764 to Hanisch et al.; and rejected 5-7 under § 103 as being unpatentable over Pasquetto or Hanisch et al.

Applicant has canceling claims 1-12 and added new claims 13-28. The new claims do not recite the redundant terms “at least” because, in U.S. practice, an article (“a”, “an”) normally encompasses one and or more than one, a counted element normally encompasses either the number counted or more than the number, and a part normally encompasses the part as well as the whole.

Applicant submits that the pending claims are patentable, fully complying with 35 U.S.C. §§ 112, 102, and 103, and the other applicable statutes and regulations.

Regarding claim 1, support (not limitation) for the recited “first support surface” and “second support surface” may be found, for example, in elements 212 and 222 described

in Figs. 2 and 3 and paragraphs 53-55.

Pasquetto purports to disclose a milling machine having a supporting frame; a worktable fitted to the supporting frame so as to oscillate about a substantially horizontal first axis of rotation, and in turn having two rotary platforms, each for accommodating a workpiece. (Abstract). The Examiner stated, “Re claim 4, note that the bearings 16 and/or 17 each support and guide a rotatable shaft 15 (see at least Figure 5). Note also that these shafts 15 each ‘have’, by virtue of their fixed connection to table 3, a ‘support and connection surface’ for the ‘receiving plates’ 4.”, Office Action, page 8.

Hanisch et al. purport to disclose a device for high-precision machining of optical workpieces, in particular optical lenses, which comprises a horizontally displaceable gantry with at least one vertically displaceable tool spindle and a yoke with workpiece holding means mounted so as to be rotatable about a swivel axis by means of journals fitted on both sides. For swivelling of the yoke without gearing and therefore without backlash, a torque motor is provided concentrically to the swivel axis, which motor is directly connected actively with one of the journals. (Abstract). The Examiner stated, “Re claim 4, noting that claim 4 also depends from claim 1, note that two rotatable shafts 13 are guided by the bearings 18, 17, 18, 18, and each shaft has a ‘support and fixation surface’ (such as, for example, the vertical innermost surface thereof) for attachment of portions 12 of structure that can alternatively be considered the ‘receiving plate’ as broadly claimed.” Office Action, page 11.


In contrast, each of new claims 13-22 recites, for example, a machining device comprising a first support surface extending from the first bearing in a direction of the axis of rotation, the first support surface being asymmetrically arranged with respect to the axis of rotation; a second support surface extending from the second bearing in a direction toward the first support surface, the second support surface being asymmetrically arranged with respect to the axis of rotation; and a receiving plate for a workpiece, the receiving plate being removably attachable to the first support surface such that the receiving plate is between the first support surface and the axis of rotation, the receiving plate being removably attachable to the second support surface such that the receiving plate is between the second support surface and the axis of rotation. (Base

Claim 1). No reasonable combination of the art of record, including Pasquetto and Hanisch et al., would have suggested having this claimed interrelation of a receiving plate removably attachable to this recited first and second support surfaces.

Claims 23-28 are patentable because each recites, inter alia, a method for a system having a first support surface extending from the first bearing in a direction of the axis of rotation, the first support surface being asymmetrically arranged with respect to the axis of rotation; a second bearing supported by the frame; a second support surface extending from the second bearing in a direction toward the first support surface, the second support surface being asymmetrically arranged with respect to the axis of rotation. The method comprises attaching the receiving plate to the first support surface such that the receiving plate is between the first support surface and the axis of rotation, and to the second support surface such that the receiving plate is between the second support surface and the axis of rotation; detaching the receiving plate; and subsequently, reattaching the receiving plate to the first support surface such that the receiving plate is between the first support surface and the axis of rotation, and to the second support surface such that the receiving plate is between the second support surface and the axis of rotation. No reasonable combination of the art of record, including Pasquetto and Hanisch et al., would have suggested having this claimed interrelation of attaching, detaching, and reattaching the recited elements.

If the Examiner has any questions about this amendment, applicants' representative would appreciate discussing this amendment with the Examiner. Applicant's representative can be reached at 703-684-4840.

Respectfully submitted,


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